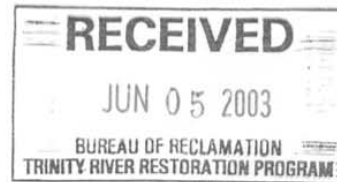


NOR-REL-MUK NATION
P.O. Box 673 Hayfork, CA 96041
(530)628-4226 * FAX (530)628-5100



May 27, 2003

Mr. Doug Schleusner, Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program
P.O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: TRINITY RIVER BRIDGES PROJECT; EA/DEIR COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Schleusner,

The Nor-Rel-Muk Nation is in full support of the Trinity River Restoration Project, which includes the modification or replacement, as necessary, of the existing Salt Flat, Bucktail, Poker Bar, and Biggers Road bridges in order to accommodate increased river flows per the project. The tribe agrees that the bridge raising is an essential stride towards the restoration of a coldwater fishery that will contribute to the health of the Trinity River, the salmon, and the indigenous Indian people who rely on the river to sustain them and the culture.

a.

The issue regarding the Tribes access to the Salt Flat site and burial ground remains a pressing concern, and those comments have been submitted verbally and in writing to the Trinity County Planning Department, Tom Stokely of the Trinity River Restoration Program Office, and to the Trinity County Board of Supervisors prior to the current comment phase on the EA/DEIR. Although the Tribe still

retains the position of the need for administrative access to our culture site at Salt Flat, we will not pursue said access from the Salt Flat Homeowners Association at this time, in order to assist in the

b.

implementation of the Trinity River Bridges Project. However, the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation does not relinquish any of the tribe's civil rights to take legal action in Federal Court, if necessary in the future, to retain access to our sacred areas and burial sites. These areas are as vital to the continuation of the tribe's culture and heritage, as the coldwater fishery that is in the process of re-establishment.

c.

5

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these matters, if you have any questions, or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the tribe at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hayward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hayward" clearly distinguishable.

**John Hayward
Tribal Chair
(530)266-3271**

CC. BLM Redding (Chuck Schultz)

RESPONSE TO COMMENT 5

NOR-EL-MUK Nation

5-a: Thank you for your comment. Your comment has been noted, and will be transmitted to the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and federal officials for their consideration in connection with the merits of the proposed project. No further response is required.

5-b: Thank you for your comment. The access rights of the BLM to public land on Salt Flat via Rush Creek Road also provide access to Native Americans. Please also see the response to Comment 3-e.

5-c: Thank you for your support of the proposed action. The BLM and the other cooperating agencies acknowledge the tribe's potential future interest in obtaining access rights to sacred areas and burial sites. Please also refer to responses to Comments 3-a and 3-e